

Stakeholder Comments and Recommendations for Regulators

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Philadelphia



Looks like a “regular” neighborhood in Mountain View, the heart of Silicon Valley...



Welcome to my home, which is under remediation for TCE vapor intrusion.

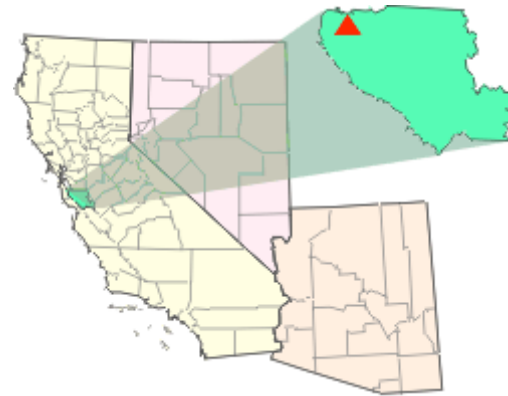


The house was built in 1895, survived the 1906 earthquake, and more than one century later, it is now the victim of TCE vapor intrusion.

The palm tree is in my yard, the MEW Superfund Site is across the street; my house is over TCE contaminated ground water. Looks can be deceiving!

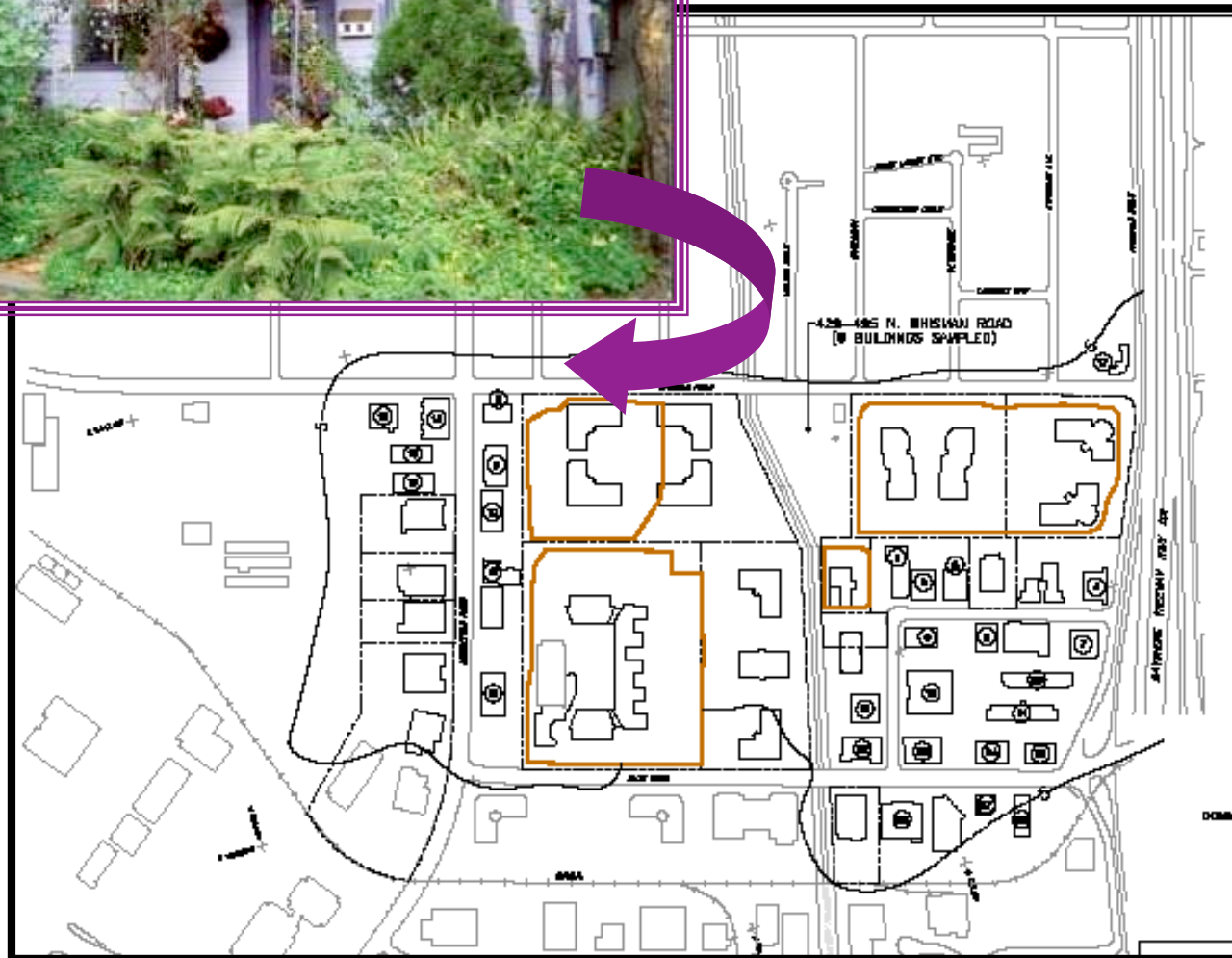


- My experience: Indoor air testing was never offered, discussed, or explained until after I had lived across the street from a Superfund Site for DECADES.
- Only a slight redrawing of the plume gave me the perceived right to strongly request indoor air testing. At that point the site was 75% remediated, with approx 75K tons of TCE removed, and my home indoor air tested high enough to recommend remediation, which was designed and installed. (The first design increased the amount of TCE in the indoor air, and had to be redone.)





My House – Follow the Arrow





A section of the nine-acre
MEW site

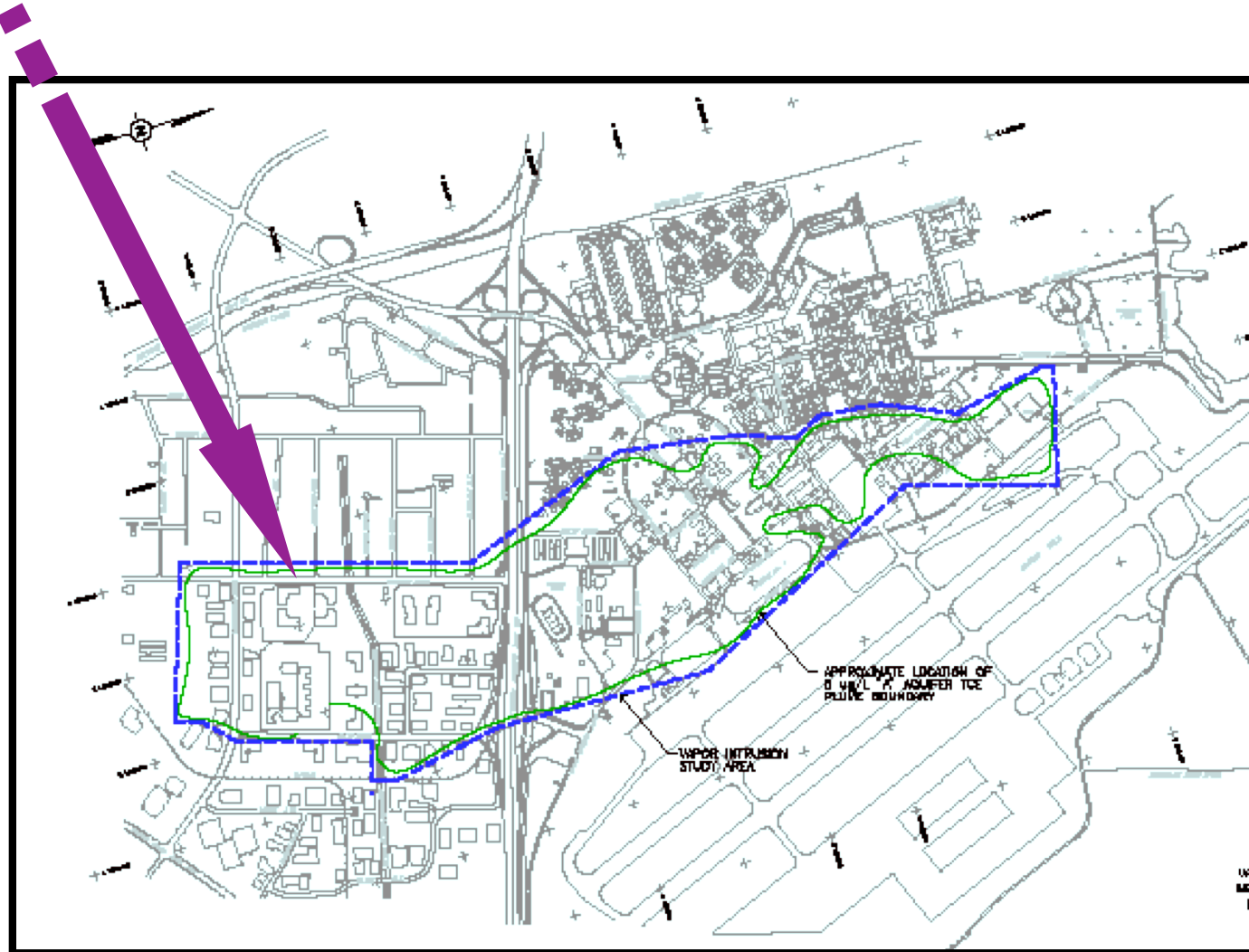
See my house?

Notice the plume?



Another view – a larger area – where my house is located.

Moffett Field (former Navy base) is located east of Highway 101.



- Political clout and power to affect change happens **because** of association or groups.
- Where there is no existing group or organization, the regulatory agency should be **obligated** to help form and support such groups.
- When there are existing groups, such as homeowners associations, support is still needed. Without guidance and support to form and maintain groups, people who have already been victimized by faceless polluters have very few tools to deal with their situation.

My house is on the left; we are heading towards Moffett Field.

Hangar One is barely visible at the end of the street. So much contaminated ground water in Mountain View and at Moffett Field!



An aerial view of my house on Whisman Road.



The row of trees block the view of the MEW Superfund Site and of the commercial buildings which are on the nine-acre site.

Looking out my front door – this is what the
MEW Superfund Site looks like.



Sampling

What should trigger vapor intrusion investigations?

- Living across from or on top of a Superfund Site should be a mandatory no-brainer to offer indoor air testing.
- Knowing that TCE has been spilled or illegally dumped is another obvious trigger.

- There is also anecdotal information. For example, people who worked and lived in an area many years ago often were the only ones who have accurate information about dumping, about well locations, and about farms and the chemicals that were used there.
- With all the variability in soils and preferential pathways, it should be mandated that indoor air testing happen for any inhabited building within several hundred feet of volatile organic contamination, and that the perimeter for testing expand outward until no contaminated indoor air is found.

- How much more socially responsible and “the right way” it would have been to canvas the neighborhood 25 years earlier and ensure at that time that people were not living in homes or working in businesses with forced and unsolicited contaminated air.
- As soon as it is determined that there is contaminated groundwater and that the indoor air has not been tested, all efforts should be made to start the indoor air testing immediately.
 - “Immediately” does not mean that it happens quickly; canisters need to be available, labs for testing have to be scheduled, and homeowners and testing staff need to coordinate their efforts.

The GTE contaminated site is to the left – not visible in this photo, but one more contaminated site less than a mile from my home.

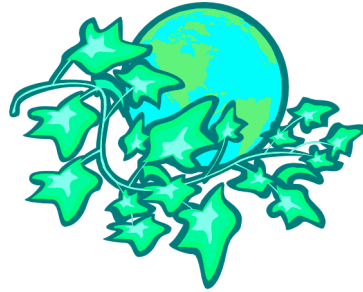


My neighbor, two houses down, was born in this home in the 1920's. Her father built the house, along with the barn which is behind it. She has lived here all her life; now she lives across the street from the MEW Superfund Site.



- If there is indoor air contamination found, sampling should be ongoing until the groundwater is cleaned up. If there is no contamination found, there is still the potential for new vapor intrusion pathways to happen. My belief is that testing for both detected and non-detected TCE contamination in the indoor air should take place every six months; any father apart and people are put at additional long-term health risks.
- We have one earth – hold the polluters responsible and do not allow this mess to be passed on to further generations.





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“Remember Who You Wanted to Be”